Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2015/16 – 2017/18
SERVICE PLAN

February 2015

BRITISH
COLUMBIA

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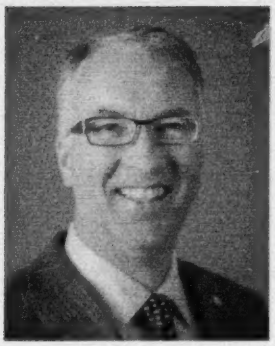
Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

Honourable John Rustad
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
February 2, 2015

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation leads the BC Government in pursuing reconciliation with the First Nations and Aboriginal peoples[1] of British Columbia. A key component of reconciliation involves building and maintaining relationships and partnerships, which create opportunities to collaborate on building a strong economy and a secure tomorrow so that all British Columbians, including First Nations and Aboriginal peoples, are able to pursue their goals. The Ministry continues the work of reconciliation through a variety of mechanisms. A primary course to achieving reconciliation is to establish and implement agreements with First Nations. Treaties, agreements, partnerships and other reconciliation initiatives are important tools for First Nations to develop sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities. The Ministry's work includes understanding and championing the opportunities and identified needs of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples. By working across government, partners and industry, the Ministry continues its commitment to finding solutions that strengthen the fabric and culture of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

[1] Canada's Aboriginal population is distinct and diverse. The *Constitution Act* recognizes the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. "First Nation" is the generally preferred term for Indian peoples of Canada. The term Aboriginal as used throughout this document includes all people of Aboriginal ancestry, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The term communities means the diversity of Aboriginal communities as defined by Aboriginal people and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation works with all Aboriginal peoples wherever they may live in British Columbia.

Strategic Direction and Context

The *BC Jobs Plan* is transforming British Columbia's economy through mining, natural gas, pipeline, transportation infrastructure, clean energy and other major development opportunities. In order for the Province to take full advantage of these opportunties, legal requirements regarding Aboriginal rights and title must be addressed and First Nations and Aboriginal peoples must be provided with the information and resources necessary to fully participate.

Recognizing the importance of working together to create a strong economy, the Ministry's mandate outlines the crucial factors to meeting its purpose. The Ministry will:

- Continue to work with BC First Nations to secure long-term treaties that provide economic benefit and security for all British Columbians.
- Work with First Nations that are impacted by natural gas extraction, pipelines or liquefied natural gas facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to participate in this generational opportunity.
- Continue to work with First Nations and Aboriginal communities to share in the economic benefits of mining, forestry and tourism.
- Continue to implement our commitment to First Nations to expand the number of non-treaty agreements to further economic development opportunities that benefit both British Columbia and First Nations.
- Work with First Nations to ensure they participate in the Clean Energy Standing Offer by BC Hydro through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund.
- Work with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to increase the number of First Nations participating in apprenticeship and skills training programs to ensure economic prosperity includes First Nations members.
- Work with the ministries of Justice, Health and Children and Family Development to implement the Violence Free BC program.

In order to support the new Taxpayer Accountability Principles, the Ministry is focused on fulfilling its mandate while fostering a culture of cost-consciousness and transparency. The Ministry supports First Nations and Aboriginal peoples becoming full partners in the economic, political and social future of this province.

In addition, the Province continues the work of reconciliation through partnership and engagement. The Ministry supports Aboriginal business development through a suite of initiatives and programs such as the Aboriginal Business Awards. The Ministry engages with Aboriginal leadership organizations and communities on tangible initiatives to improve quality of life and address community priorities. Other key priorities, include the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP), the *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint* focusing on skills devlopment for Aboriginal people, Aboriginal youth engagement, and participation in clean, renewable energy projects. The Ministry is committed to finding solutions and creating economic opportunities for First Nations and Aboriginal peoples building a stronger future for all British Columbians.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

For the next three years, the Ministry's emphasis in collaborating with First Nations to facilitate economic development, create jobs and secure opportunities and benefits related to liquefied natural gas remains consistent with the goals and objectives included in the *2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan.* With the focus on collaboration and liquefied natural gas, the Ministry added performance measures to highlight the number of collaborative engagements and related agreements being negotiated.

Goal 1: Create immediate opportunities for improved Aboriginal participation in the economy and increased certainty for development

Objective 1: Improve economic and social outcomes for Aboriginal peoples

Strategies

- In collaboration with natural resource sector ministries, negotiate and sign agreements with First Nations that create economic and social benefits, including resource revenue agreements with First Nations impacted by industries such as mining.
- Partner with First Nations, Aboriginal communities and organizations to support community-based skills, training and employment initiatives.
- Manage the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund and lead negotiation of carbon offset-sharing arrangements with First Nations.

Performance Measure 1: Revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of completed revenue sharing agreements with First Nations	4	4	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

The mining, tourism and oil and gas sectors create a wide range of jobs that support families, accelerate economic growth and attract investment across the province. British Columbia is a leader in Canada in resource revenue and benefits sharing with First Nations. The Province is committed to sharing revenue with First Nations that are potentially impacted by resource development in their traditional territories. Revenue sharing agreements enable greater process certainty for the Province, First Nations and industry, shifting all parties into a partnership around development and solidifying support for project success. Economic and community development agreements, which are initiated

on a case-by-case basis, are negotiated on projects such as major new mines, mine expansions and tourism initiatives like resort developments.

Performance Measure 2: Clean energy business fund agreements

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast*	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of completed clean energy business fund agreements.	22	57	92	112

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

*Cumulative totals include clean energy business fund agreements that were signed in previous years.

Discussion

The clean energy business fund agreements were previously included under the performance measure for the strategic agreements. As these agreements include a revenue sharing element, the performance measure better addresses economic and social outcomes. Clean energy business fund agreements:

- provide capacity development funding to support First Nations to undertake activities such as feasibility studies or to engage with proponents of clean energy projects;
- provide equity funding to qualifying First Nations to help acquire equity positions in clean energy projects or assist in the undertaking of their own community clean energy project; and
- share in the revenues from clean energy projects based on new, net, incremental revenues to government derived from water rentals, land rents and eventually wind participation rents.

Performance Measure 3: Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast*	2015/16 Target	201617 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement program.	124	128	130	130

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

*Cumulative totals include the forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements that were signed in previous years.

Discussion

Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements share forestry revenues with First Nations based on forest activity in their traditional territories. Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements were launched in the fall of 2010 to replace forest and range opportunity agreements as these latter agreements expire.

Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements directly support the forest sector by streamlining consultation with First Nations through negotiated consultation protocols and commitments by First Nations that improve stability on the land base. Developed in the spirit of the New Relationship, forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements also support the *Transformative Change Accord* objectives; contain linkages to agreements that further reconciliation and progress to treaty; and support jobs and the economy by providing economic benefits to First Nations.

Objective 2: Through early engagement, ensure First Nations and Aboriginal peoples have opportunities to participate and be involved with initiatives that affect their communities.

Strategies

- Negotiate and implement forms of reconciliation agreements with First Nations, which contribute to improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.

Performance Measure 4: Strategic agreements

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of completed agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements, strategic engagement agreements, and economic benefit agreements.	7	7	7	7

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

Non-treaty agreements focus on ensuring First Nations benefit from and participate in development opportunities, identify areas of common interest and create possibilities to work with First Nations to achieve mutual goals through meaningful engagement processes. Specific elements of each agreement are flexible, depending on the parties' objectives, local needs, and relationship history. Strategic engagement agreements establish a government-to-government relationship and improve processes for decision making. Reconciliation agreements are specifically designed to increase economic and legal certainty for resource and land use, establish a process for shared decision making and create social and economic opportunities for First Nations' communities. Clean energy business fund agreements, previously included under this performance measure, are now listed separately.

Performance Measure 5: Liquefied natural gas benefit agreements

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast*	2015/16 Target	201617 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of completed liquefied natural gas benefit agreements, which includes agreements for pipelines and facilities.	25	45	65	75

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
*Cumulative totals include agreements that were signed in previous years.

Discussion

Further to the strategic agreements, the Ministry uses tools such as non-treaty agreements to support First Nations that may be impacted by natural gas development, pipelines or liquefied natural gas facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to participate in this generational opportunity. These benefit agreements create greater certainty for all parties by obtaining early support from First Nations, creating partnerships for the development, transportation and liquefaction of natural gas. The Ministry will continue to use its innovative and flexible approach, including land, revenue and benefits sharing, strategic engagement and other agreements, to ensure First Nations are engaged on liquefied natural gas activities that may impact their Aboriginal rights. In addition, to complement liquefied natural gas related agreements, the Ministry will work with First Nations to support social and economic wellness such as skills training programs and an Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

Goal 2: Continue to reconcile with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia

Successful reconciliation produces long-term social, economic and cultural advantages for all British Columbians. Reconciliation is an ongoing process and it is rarely straightforward. It requires trust and commitment to overcome differences. There must be a willingness to learn from each other at all stages. Relationships built on mutual respect and recognition are key to making reconciliation possible.

Objective 3: Respectfully reconcile provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights

Strategies

- Advance agreements among First Nations, the Province and local governments.
- Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through tripartite processes, including treaty revitalization.
- Link economic development to treaty through land transfers for current and future use.
- Work with partner ministries and agencies, First Nations and First Nations' leaders to understand, clarify and develop solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.

Performance Measure 6: Treaties and related agreements

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements in principle.	5	5	5	5

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

The Ministry coordinates and negotiates treaty, treaty-related, and non-treaty agreements to support successful reconciliation and to secure a better future for all British Columbians. A treaty is considered to be the most comprehensive form of reconciliation between First Nations and the Province. Treaties address the rights and responsibilities of the Province, First Nations and Canada on matters including land ownership, governance, taxation, financial benefits, and environmental management (including wildlife). An agreement in principle is negotiated during the fourth phase of the six-stage treaty negotiation process. The agreement in principle outlines the major points of agreement between the parties. Incremental treaty agreements help to build trust and momentum toward treaty. They allow First Nations to realize benefits before treaties are concluded and implemented. For example, an incremental treaty agreement may allow a First Nation to develop an economic opportunity, provide employment for members or acquire culturally significant land.

Objective 4: Establish respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples as a model for all British Columbians

Strategies

- Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives aimed at improving social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- Continue to build effective relationships with industry and industry associations including providing advice, guidance and direction to industry in engaging with Aboriginal peoples.
- Engage with the First Nations Leadership Council to reach shared goals regarding improving First Nations' communities and increasing certainty on the land base.
- Work with other provinces, territories, the federal government and national Aboriginal organizations to initiate and coordinate efforts to address issues of mutual interest.
- Directly engage with business and industry on supporting First Nations' participation in liquefied natural gas development.
- Work across ministries to support Aboriginal peoples' access to programs and services associated with liquefied natural gas related skills development and training.

Objective 5: Work with Aboriginal peoples to enhance and build capacity in Aboriginal communities, governments and organizations

Strategies

- Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis.
- Work across government and in partnership with Aboriginal peoples to implement the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. Monitor and report on activities and progress on meeting these goals.

- Work with Aboriginal youth organizations to support Aboriginal youth to develop their capacity and opportunities for engaging with government on issues of importance to them.
- Provide economic opportunities through the implementation of agreements with Aboriginal peoples.

Performance Measure 7: Capacity building

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of capacity-building engagements with communities, youth and Aboriginal organizations.	12	12	12	12

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

This performance measure captures the work the Ministry does to engage directly with Aboriginal youth, communities and organizations to build capacity through initiatives including governance support, community engagement, short-term work exchanges, job shadowing, human resource development and building youth leadership.

The Ministry's efforts also support government's Diversity and Inclusiveness Strategy, and enhance initiatives such as the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program and the Building Public Service Capacity in Aboriginal Relations strategy.

Objective 6: Work across government, with Aboriginal partners and with the federal and local governments to improve socio-economic outcomes for off-reserve/urban Aboriginal people in British Columbia.

Strategies

- Continue to support innovative partnerships with provincial ministries, Aboriginal partners, and the federal and local governments to support employment, education and job skills training for British Columbia's urban/off-reserve Aboriginal population.
- Support the goals outlined in the *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint* such as adding 15,000 new Aboriginal workers over the next ten years and realizing the potential of Aboriginal youth and under-employed Aboriginal people to realize opportunities in emerging sectors like liquefied natural gas.
- Support Aboriginal youth to advance culturally relevant social innovations in business and entrepreneurship, education and other youth-driven priorities.
- Support British Columbia's Métis population as a unique demographic within the urban/off-reserve population to coordinate engagement and strategies for achieving better education and job training, healthier family life, and strengthened cultural linkages.

Performance Measure 8: Collaborative engagements

Performance Measure	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of collaborative engagements, agreements or initiatives that involve formal partnership/coordination with other provincial ministries, federal and/or municipal governments and/or Aboriginal partners.	10	10	10	10

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

This performance measure captures the work within the context of the ORAAP and measures the impact of cross government and stakeholder collaboration. The ORAAP brings together a broad coalition coordinated through a formal partnership with the federal and municipal government, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the Métis Nation of BC. The community driven priorities of ORAAP, align with and advance the goals of the *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint* and support the off-reserve population through collaborative strategies to bring together the assets of the partners to realize better social and economic outcomes. ORAAP's effectiveness is measured in the ability to leverage key partnerships to establish a collaborative, coordinated and holistic approach to improving community-identified socio-economic priorities.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2014/15 Restated Estimates[1]	2015/16 Estimates	2016/17 Plan	2017/18 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Negotiations and Regional Operations	13,537	14,086	14,119	14,184
Partnerships and Community Renewal	4,228	4,321	4,329	4,343
Strategic Initiatives	14,345	15,834	14,664	14,715
Executive and Support Services	4,385	4,392	3,873	3,883
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding	42,454	43,091	44,095	45,480
First Citizens Fund	2,830	2,630	2,000	2,000
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund special account	496	2,529	2,686	3,682
Total	**82,275**	**86,883**	**85,766**	**88,287**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Executive and Support Services	1	1	1	1
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**

[1]For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2014/15 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the *2015/16 Estimates*.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

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Appendix B: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission
www.bctreaty.net/index.php

First Peoples' Cultural Council
www.fphlcc.ca/

Métis Nation Relationship Accord
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=FFA6DACA442743418B9A3151578E1BBF&filename=metis_relationship_accord_signed.pdf

The New Relationship
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=BB4532813FA04F17AE624D290DF792AE&filename=new_relationship_accord.pdf

New Relationship Trust
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/

Transformative Change Accord
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative_change_accord.pdf

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the Ministry can be found at:
www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm

The full mandate letter is available at:
http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet_ministers/